

Litter Bin Siting Policy

Background

This policy is designed to

- outline the principles which will be followed in selecting and reviewing where litter bins are located across the city;
- inform decision making for future litter bin sites; and to
- assist with decision making around existing litter bin sites with the ultimate objective of locating the correct size and type of right bins in the right place, reflecting demand.

The Council's capacity to provide litter bins is finite. It is likely that the demand for litter bins will, at certain times or locations, exceed the capacity to provide the service.

It is expected that the criteria outlined in the policy should assist with managing litter bin provision. In addition, no review process currently exists to ensure that litter bin locations continue to match the expectation when it was sited, taking into account changes to usage patterns, and external factors such as vandalism, etc.

A range of bin types may be deployed across the city taking into account the following:

- Available litter bin stocks;
- Size of litter bin versus usage and demand;
- Type of location.

It is intended that future litter bin sites will be selected by using guiding principles. These will include (but are not restricted to):

- Operational efficiency;
- Usage patterns;
- Health and safety considerations associated with the servicing of the litter bins;
- Links to other policies, e.g. planning and streetscape issues including in particular Edinburgh Street Design Guidance.

The type, size and location of litter bins are all linked to how litter bins are used by the public, and in particular how frequently they require to be emptied, and how much litter is collected. These are the key determinants which need to be matched to service delivery and flexibility in terms of servicing frequency and the ability to route services effectively and efficiently.

Usage and efficiency

Changes to the ways in which litter bins are managed will be governed by two factors: how they are used by the public, and how efficiently they can be serviced.

The use of routing software, coupled with resident feedback and potentially litter bin sensors will help to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of Waste and Cleansing services, but will also be used to better target the siting of the bins to maximise their efficiency.

Prioritisation Criteria

It is not possible to define specific sites which will and will not receive litter bins.

The following areas will **normally** be viewed as high priority to receive litter bins:

- Main arterial routes and other high footfall and through route areas;
- Main areas of commerce and retail;
- Key routes in relation to secondary schools;
- Near fast food and takeaway retailers;
- Public transport hubs (e.g. Bus stops and similar areas) where large numbers of people stand for periods of time, particularly in central areas;
- Entrances to parks and significant public spaces.

The following areas will **not normally** be viewed as high priority for litter bin placements, or may in some cases be ruled out for litter bin placement:

- Exclusively residential areas, except where these become high priority due to one of the reasons above;
- Locations where the litter bin would be sited in close proximity to a household waste bin (i.e. the communal bins which are sited on street in tenemental areas, and are provided for the disposal of household waste AND litter);
- Locations where the litter bin is being abused, including: inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste which has not been resolved by engagement or enforcement; sites which are subject to arson or vandalism.

Other Siting Criteria

Siting with regard to pedestrians

Care must be taken to ensure that litter bins do not impede pedestrian flows and take into account the particular needs of people who use wheelchairs and prams. A minimum footpath width of 1.5m must be maintained.

Public events

The provision of temporary litter bins may be considered at specific locations to reflect increased pedestrian flows and litter generation at certain times, e.g. during public events.

Other criteria with regard to safe siting, or whether or not to provide a separate recycling service should be taken into account when siting these bins. Litter bins must **not** be provided to collect commercial waste and it must be made clear that events organisers must put in place separate arrangements for the segregation of commercial materials for recycling and disposal of commercial waste in compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and other pertinent legislation.

Parks and other similar public spaces

The siting of bins in public parks and greenspaces presents some particular challenges in terms of efficiency, capacity and safety. It is usually viewed as beneficial to encourage park users to take their waste to strategic locations, usually at entrances and exits, so that the litter bin can be serviced safely without having to drive into or around the greenspace.

Therefore, as facilities are upgraded the following principles will be adopted:

- Litter bin locations will be moved from throughout the park or public space, to key locations e.g. Leith Links;
- The maximum capacity must be provided;
- The facilities should be designed to take account of the usage of the sites, with dedicated facilities being provided as appropriate for barbecue waste, specific appropriate recycling streams, etc.

Recycling

Scottish legislation, and the Council's Waste and Cleansing Strategy, both assume or require that waste should be segregated and separately collected as close to source as possible to maximise recycling and the recovery of materials.

The Council also takes a pragmatic view of the effectiveness and efficiency of such measures, and the Council's strategy acknowledges the particular challenges associated with collecting litter as a segregated stream for recycling while maintaining the relevant high standards of quality required, as well as the small quantities involved and the likely impact of the Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers which is being introduced in Scotland.

Therefore:

- Recycling bins for litter are NOT required at every location, but can be considered at key locations where there are sufficient quantities of the relevant recyclates;
- Any segregated litter bins MUST consider following;
 - How the bins will be emptied- under no circumstances can segregated recycling bins be mixed with other waste;
 - Which materials it is most appropriate to target (e.g. cans and plastic bottles in parks, newspapers on main arterial routes and bus stops and termini?);
 - Bins must be labelled appropriately for specific target materials, and not labelled just "recycling";
 - Contamination risks (which can be offset by appropriate design);

Specific Waste Streams

Barbecues: consideration will be given to the siting of dedicated litter bins or containers for the safe disposal of hot waste at locations where there is a history of barbecue usage during good weather, etc.

Dog waste: the Council's policy is to maximise efficiency by collecting bagged dog waste alongside general waste. No dedicated dog waste bins will be provided. This will be reviewed should it undermine the separate objective of sorting mixed waste for recycling.

Litter Bin Siting Policy Appendix 1: Factors for consideration:

- Cost
- Bin density (how far do people have to walk?) Bin size
- Bin type?
- Land ownership- owned or adopted land only
- Location type (e.g. high priority areas as outlined in the policy)
- Usage/ demand
- Safety (public and staff)
- Bins creating litter (whether due to capacity, misuse or location).
- Vandalism and arson
- Terrorism
- Evaluation
- Design for recycling
- Proximity to household waste (communal) bins which can perform same function.
- Parks, greenspaces, civic areas, squares, plazas, etc.